

MARCH, 1909

NUMBER 24



# The Playground

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

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PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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A GIRLS' PLAYGROUND CAMP, BUFFALO, N. Y.

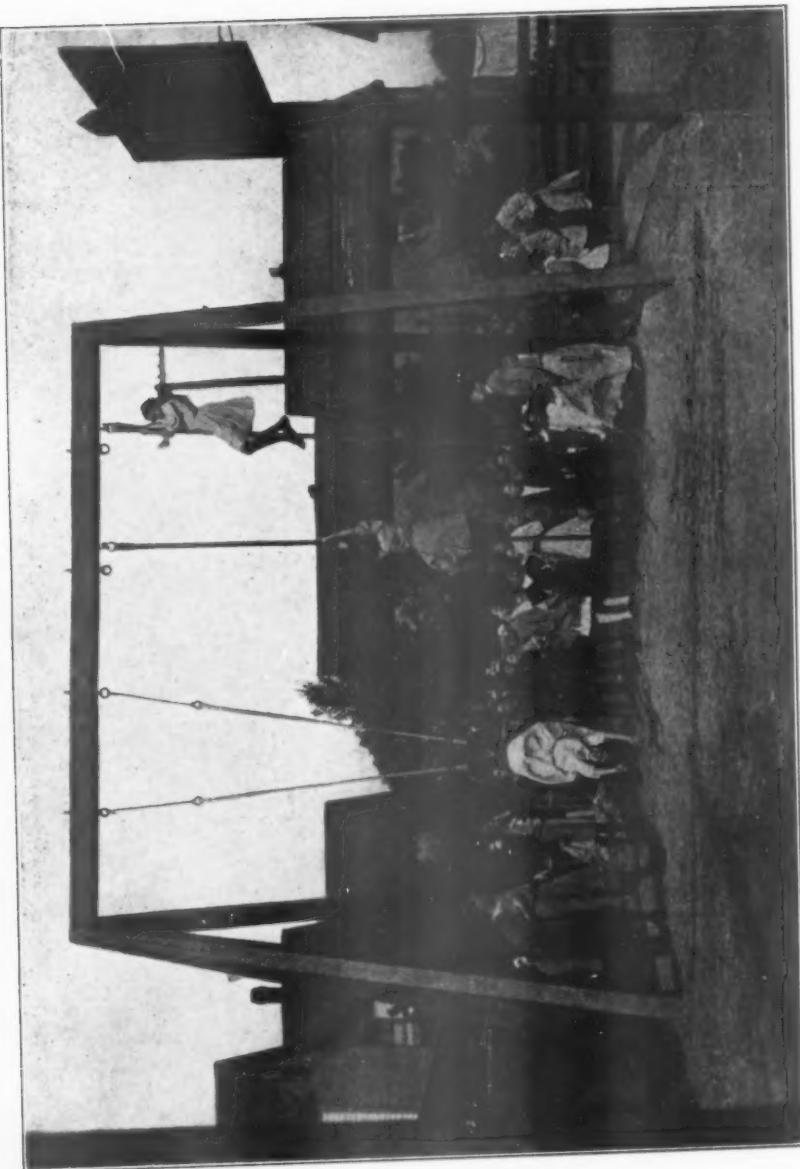
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A NEW FEATURE OF THE GIRLS' WORK ON THE BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS.



A NEW FEATURE OF THE GIRLS' WORK ON THE BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS.



# The Playground

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VOLUME II of THE PLAYGROUND ends with the present number. The editor wishes to express his thanks to all who have assisted so generously by articles, pictures, suggestions, and subscriptions. His work has been rendered most agreeable by the cordiality of the co-operation of the large number of friends of THE PLAYGROUND.

THE PLAYGROUND has endeavored thus far principally to extend the good work. With the new year, beginning with the next number, this journal will probably be enlarged in size so as to be uniform with other publications of the Association. The number of pages will be increased, and more formal work will be undertaken. The desire of the editor is that the third volume shall be more scientific in character than its predecessors, that it shall include much of the technique of education through play, with treatment of courses of study and

organization of playgrounds, etc. Volume III, completed along these lines, will, it is hoped, place this publication in form so that Volume IV may become the international expression of playground work throughout the world.

The Playground Happenings so ably presented by Mr. Lee F. Hanmer, Field Secretary of the Playground Association of America, and the special report of Dr. Ayres in No. 23, giving the statistical review of the development of the first stages of the work throughout the United States, show fundamental conditions and widespread interest sufficient to warrant for the future most earnest, painstaking, intensive work as necessary along all lines of permanent development. They form the best appeal to the friends of children for wise guidance in the constructive work of the future, for education through free play,—making for sturdy, healthy, happy, and useful individuality and citizenship.

## BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS—

### BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS.

**J**N June, 1900, the Common Council of the city of Buffalo granted Westminster House, a settlement house, permission to equip Emslie Street schoolyard (largest school in the city) as a free playground to be open during the summer vacation. This permission was granted in face of the opposition of the Superintendent of Education and the principal of the school. The chief reason for opening this playground was to lead the city to consider the maintenance of playgrounds a proper municipal function. The attendance at the opening day exercises was about 3,000. The Mayor presided and several prominent citizens spoke. Two men were hired as directors. The daily average attendance was 333.

Accordingly, in the spring of 1901, the city itself was asked to establish a public playground on Terrace Park, a densely populated section of the city. The \$2,900 appropriated was spent in equipping the grounds with apparatus and a shelterhouse, and in hiring a director and a kindergartner. This ground contains 57,600 square feet of land and is owned by the city, and run under the supervision of the Park Department. The average daily attendance at this ground is 1,500.

The marked success of the Terrace Playground led the city, in the spring of 1902, to appropriate \$7,500 for three new playgrounds. Of these the Johnson Street playground was the first to be secured and equipped. It is situated in a German section of the city on property containing 73,392 square feet, and seized by the city for back taxes. It is the largest playground in Buffalo at the present time.

The Broadway Market playground was the next to be finished, and was

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The pictures illustrating this article were taken and finished by Mr. W. A. Staples, staff photographer of the *Buffalo Courier*.

situated on city land in back of the Broadway Market in the Polish section of the city, and contained 72,820 square feet. This playground did a good work for a time, but the property was needed for market purposes and the playground was transferred to Glenwood avenue, to land adjacent to Public School No. 59, where it is now situated. It contains 46,320 square feet of land, a part owned by the city and a part rented for the mere payment of current taxes. It is the expressed hope of the local Playground Association to obtain this year one or two new playgrounds in the Polish section of the city as there has been no playground in that section since the removal of the Broadway playground to Glenwood avenue, which is in German territory.

The Hamburg Canal playground was the last to be finished of the three playgrounds started in 1902. It was located in the filled-in bed of the famous Hamburg Canal and lay between two railroad tracks. It should never have been placed there, but that was the only available land in that section of the city at that time. It contained 106,730 square feet (about 100 by 1,067 feet) in an Irish section of the city. When the Wabash Railroad bought the Hamburg strip from the city the Playground was removed to Lanigan Park, situated in the same section of the city and containing 30,200 square feet.

In the spring of 1903 the City appropriated \$11,850 for the maintenance and equipment of two new playgrounds. One of these was the Bird avenue playground, situated on the west side of the city, adjacent to Public School No. 52, in a section where 95 per cent. of the children are American born. This land was rented from the owners for the first three years then bought by the city. It contains 45,011 square feet.

The Sidway street playground, situated on the south side of the city in an

—BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS



RECESS WORK AT THE BIRD AVENUE PLAYGROUND, BUFFALO, N. Y.

## BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS—

Irish section, was the last playground equipped. It is situated on land owned by the Buffalo Gas Co. and is rented by the city for the nominal rental of payment of current taxes. It contains 46,900 square feet.

Good results have evidenced the fact that the ideal location for a playground is adjacent to the public school, where the mental and physical interests are harmoniously allied and where the expense of a shelter house may be avoided.

Each playground, with the exception of the two school yard playgrounds, Bird avenue and Glenwood avenue, where the school basement is used for the purpose, is provided with a shelter house supplied with toilet rooms, shower bath, director's room and store room. Each playground is supplied with two sets of large swings, one for boys and one for girls, sand boxes, baby swings, basket ball courts, hand ball (where the game is popular) jumping standards, giant strides, parallel bars, horizontal bar, baseball diamond for playground ball, shot put ring, high and broad jump pit, swinging rings, climbing pole and ropes, and three of the grounds are equipped with cinder running tracks. Among the supplies are found quoits, croquet sets, bean bags, jumping ropes, dumb bells, wands, bar bells, Indian clubs, medicine balls, foot balls, basket balls, indoor base balls and swimming wings for the swimming classes.

With the exception of the Terrace Park playground, which, as has been stated, is under the supervision of the Park Department, the playgrounds of Buffalo were maintained and supervised by the Department of Public Works from 1900 until July, 1907, when they were transferred to the Department of Health, where they have since remained.

It has been the experience of the City of Buffalo to meet with opposition from the various neighborhoods when estab-

lishing a playground, but in every case the opposition has been overcome by the good accomplished, and the neighbors would be the first to remonstrate against the removal of a playground once established. The Grammar School Athletic League, organized within the past year has done much to awaken a greater interest in playgrounds as they have been the training grounds for the boys. The school principals are waking up, and it will not be long before the girls and boys of each school district will demand a playground as their right.

*(Completed on opposite page.)*

### SOME PHASES OF PLAYGROUND WORK.

**T**HERE are in connection with the five playgrounds of Buffalo, under the Health Department, fifteen employees, six directors, one of whom is the general director, four directresses and five caretakers. Two years ago there was among the employees but one woman, for the work was comparatively new, and until the playground movement is well started in a place it would seem that among the workers, men are more needed than women, as they establish more quickly the big playground idea, while with women leading the movement it continues too long on the nursery or sand box type. This woman divided her time and attention among all the playgrounds. The increased attendance among the girls justified the employment of more women, and by another season things will be so adjusted that there will be a directress, a director and a caretaker for each ground.

Although the position is in the control of the Civil Service Commission of the city, it is difficult to secure proper workers. In New York and Chicago, and other large cities where the work is highly specialized, they demand either

*(Continued on page 6.)*

## —BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS

The daily attendance of a playground is secured by adding the largest attendance of the morning to the largest attendance of the afternoon to the largest attendance of the evening.

The playground season for the Buf-

falo playgrounds extends from May 1 to November 1, with the exception of the Bird Avenue and Glenwood Avenue playgrounds, which are open on half time throughout the winter.

### TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR SEASON, 1908.

Grounds.	Attendance.	Baths.	Baseball.	Basketball.	Quoits.	Handball.	Med. Ball.	Races.	Games.
Bird .....	310,420	20,454	1,064	1,057	1,719	5,637	45	3,249	3,210
Glenwood .....	270,542	16,507	1,996	944	2,070	...	358	945	3,025
Johnson .....	104,000	4,322	2,237	804	1,597	...	...	1,163	770
Sidway .....	76,485	7,558	2,096	488	3,196	1,011	712	804	830
*Lanigan .....	116,830	2,496	1,154	750	3,997	2,580	75	152	417
Total .....	878,367	51,337	8,547	4,043	12,579	9,228	1,190	6,313	8,252

### AVERAGE MONTHLY.

Bird .....	25,878	*1,705	152	88	286	641	8	464	267
*Glenwood .....	22,545	2,751	333	79	345	...	59	157	225
Johnson .....	17,348	720	373	134	266	...	...	194	128
Sidway .....	12,747	1,093	266	84	533	168	119	126	138
Lanigan .....	19,472	416	192	125	666	430	12	25	69
Total .....	97,990	6,685	1,316	510	2,096	1,239	198	966	827

### AVERAGE WEEKLY.

Bird .....	6,469	426	38	22	72	160	2	116	67
Glenwood .....	5,036	688	83	20	86	...	15	39	56
Johnson .....	3,837	180	94	34	64	...	...	48	32
Sidway .....	3,187	273	66	21	133	42	30	31	39
Lanigan .....	4,868	104	48	31	144	108	3	6	17
Total .....	23,997	1,671	329	128	499	310	50	240	211

### AVERAGE DAILY.

Bird .....	1,078	71	6	4	12	27	...	19	11
*Glenwood .....	939	141	14	3	14	3	3	6	9
Johnson .....	639	30	16	6	11	...	...	8	5
Sidway .....	531	45	11	3	22	7	5	5	3
Lanigan .....	811	17	8	5	24	18	...	1	3
Total .....	3,998	277	55	21	83	55	8	39	34

\*The Bird avenue grounds is the only grounds that has hot and cold water shower baths, and the only one to give baths every month in the year.

Johnson street and Glenwood avenue grounds have no handball courts.

Lanigan Park handball court built September 20, 1908.

HARRY A. ALLISON, General Director of Playgrounds.  
Buffalo, N. Y.

## BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS—

(Continued from page 4.)

a gymnast, a kindergartner, a pianist, a librarian, a teacher of manual training, etc., and an examination can be made out accordingly. But in Buffalo there is not as yet room for such specialization, and the really successful worker should be a combination of something of all this. Therefore it is a difficult matter to provide an examination which shall sufficiently cover these points. Questions from papers intended for a gymnast or librarian alone are generally too technical for one not especially trained in those branches, while mere general question on playground management are too liberal, allowing the unfit to slip through along with the better qualified.

It seems to those interested in the matter in Buffalo that, in the case of a directress, where it is practically a choice between the kindergartner and the gymnast, that the gymnast is to be preferred as her sphere of activity is greater than that of the kindergartner, inasmuch as she can not only interest the smaller children but can enthuse and entertain the older girls, and, if occasion arises, the older boys as well. Where a trained gymnast is unavailable for a director, a track or field athlete is preferable to a base ball or foot ball hero.

At the instigation of the local Playground Association, some changes were made in the last examination, such as the addition of a practical test to the usual written test. Still better results might be obtained if the Civil Service rule, demanding three years residence in the city could be done away with. This would make it possible to secure more college and training school graduates.

More and more is it being realized that it is the girls who need the playgrounds, and that they must be influenced to attend in greater numbers. Everybody accepts playgrounds for boys.

and the neighborhood thinks them quite the proper place for their boys, but, somehow, for girls, why, that's different. Now if anybody needs fresh air and sunshine it is the girl between twelve and twenty years of age, but she is told that it is unladylike and immodest to run and jump and play generally. Sometimes she ventures on the playgrounds in a freshly laundered dress, plays ten or fifteen minutes with the result that the dress is again ready for the tub and there are more disparaging remarks about the playgrounds from already overburdened mothers. Why not change the dress for the gymnasium suit while on the playgrounds? It will be found far more comfortable, economical and modest. There is, however, among the parents, an unreasonable prejudice against the gymnasium suit for girls. Yet the same people who protest against the gymnasium suit for playground wear accept without protest the bathing suit for the public beach.

This prejudice is felt by the girls, and fearing the remarks and criticisms of the older women, not of the boys, mind you, for they, knowing the handicap that clothes can be, invariably say, "Gee, why don't she get into something she can move around in," and wishing as all girls should, to stand well in their community, they are afraid to venture and pretend they are not interested in games, while all the time they secretly envy the girl who can dance, skate, run, jump and do things. If it were not for this prejudice and the fear of the unfavorable criticism resulting therefrom, the attendance of girls at the Buffalo playgrounds would be increased tenfold. Why won't the public accept the gymnasium suit for girls as they accept the running suit for boys, not as a new style of conventional dress, but as serving very well the purpose for which it is worn?

## —BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS



WADING POOL AT HUMBOLDT PARK, BUFFALO, N. Y.

Throughout the summer months, when the playgrounds are much in use during the evenings, it is the custom of the directors to devote their attention, from five o'clock until closing time, to the welfare of the older boys and girls, and men and women; those busy throughout the day. As the playgrounds are open practically twelve hours a day, this works no hardship for the little ones who have already had full swing for eight hours.

One night it is a game of base ball between rival playgrounds, one night a game of basket ball, another night a twilight track meet with some good exhibition work on the bars or rings. Another night it is just a crowd of boys and girls who want to stay and talk things over, or plan an outing, who have begged the director to remain a little longer. They sit around the sand box, generally twenty or twenty-five in all, sometimes only eight or ten, and talk and sing for an hour or more. Those are the times when the directors

make their real friends among the frequenters of the playgrounds.

Swimming classes have been conducted by the director of the Bird Avenue playground for three or four summers. It is about a two mile walk to the nearest swimming place, but what is two miles to a boy when it stands between him and a swim? The boys meet at the playground three days a week, during July and August, and it is no unusual sight to see the director with a bundle of water-wings, for the beginners, under his arm set out with seventy-five or a hundred boys at his heels. Swimming classes will be conducted next season in connection with all of the playgrounds.

At the Bird Avenue and Glenwood Avenue playgrounds, the two playgrounds adjacent to school buildings, a great deal of what is known as recess work is done. On pleasant days, between ten and eleven o'clock, the classes from the school go out to the playground, three or four at a time, for

## BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS—

a fifteen minute playtime. The playground directors employ this time in teaching new games to the teachers and their classes. In almost every case the teachers have entered enthusiastically into the games. There is in this issue a picture of the Bird Avenue playground with the nine primary classes on the playground at the same time, playing various games instead of in groups of three or four classes as is the usual way.

The directors of the various playgrounds meet weekly to discuss the plans for the coming week, and to turn in their reports on the work of the past week. For years these meetings have been confined to the office at the City Building. Last spring it was decided to try holding them on the different grounds, dividing the workers into groups, each group to be responsible for the program at a certain number of the meetings. These meetings were held on Thursday mornings and classes were brought to the playgrounds from the nearest schools. Games suitable for the schoolyard were taught them; games which proved a welcome change from the worn out ones they had been playing. This practical demonstration of the work proved an inspiration for the workers, as it created a spirit of rivalry in the securing of new games, and suggested to each new methods of discipline and of gaining and holding the attention of the children.

Each year fewer accidents occur. The serious ones seem to come within the first few months after the establishment of a playground, before the children learn to rightly gauge the swing and speed of the various pieces of apparatus. During the past year there were only two accidents requiring the attention of a physician which is remarkable in view of the great number of children in attendance. Minor accidents are taken care of on the grounds,

each of which is supplied with a medicine chest well equipped for the rendering of first aid. The directors have, in several cases, been able to administer first aid to those receiving their injuries elsewhere than on the playgrounds.

The directors of the Bird Avenue playground experimented with a camping trip in August, 1908. A number of the girls between the ages of fifteen and twenty were anxious to go camping. It happened that none of their families were going to be able to leave town during the season, and they naturally would not allow their daughters to go away by themselves, so the girls set about to find a suitable chaperone and finally came to the playground with the announcement that they could go if they could get a playground directress to go with them. The playground workers, are, of course, known in the neighborhood and have the confidence of the parents.

As the girls were so enthusiastic about the trip, and there seemed no way for them to have it without the assistance of the playground people, the general director decided to try the experiment and the directors of the Bird Avenue playground and Mrs. Allison, the wife of the general director, agreed to accompany the girls. They chose a spot on Grand Island and were given the use of three rooms in a cottage together with the use of dishes, cots and other furniture. The only expense of the trip was the transportation, tent rental and cost of provisions. This was shared by all; camp lasted from one Monday morning to the following Monday morning, and the total expense per person was \$2.25.

The place was judiciously chosen, near enough to a summer resort to relieve the monotony of the camp, and far enough away to allow the girls almost absolute freedom as to dress, gymnasium

## —BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS



HOMeward Bound From Camp

suits being worn a share of the time. All the work incidental to the camp, including the pitching of tents, washing of dishes, preparing the meals, making the beds, etc., was done by the girls. They were divided into squads, each squad responsible for a certain amount of the work.

The program for the day was much as follows:

- 7:00 A. M.—Rising hour.
- 8:00 A. M.—Breakfast.
- 8:30 to 9:30—Work about the house.
- 9:30 A. M.—Preparation for field day; training for high jump and basketball throw; baseball.
- 10:30 A. M.—Folk dance practice at grove in dance pavilion, which was not in use during the morning.
- 11:30 A. M.—In bathing.
- 1:00 P. M.—Dinner.
- 2:00 P. M.—Open.
- 3:00 to 5:00 P. M.—At the grove; dancing, fishing, etc.
- 6:00 P. M.—Supper.

7:00 P. M.—At grove.

8:30 P. M.—Roast of some kind on beach before cottage.

10:00 P. M.—Bed.

The experiment is considered thoroughly successful from the viewpoint of the girls and of the playground people. The girls who were in camp, realizing more completely than ever before, the aims of the playground movement, and the interest of the directors in their moral and social, as well as their physical well being, have allied themselves with the directors and have become the foremost of their helpers in maintaining discipline on the grounds, in disseminating a spirit of fair play in all games, and in an effort to elevate the tone of all playground activities. This success seems to justify an outlay, during the coming season, of a modest sum in the purchase of tents, cots, dishes and general camp equipment, and the establishment, during July and August, of a playground camp where parties

## BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS—

can be sent; the actual living expenses to be defrayed by the participants. If the possibility of such a trip were made known early in the season the boys and girls would eagerly save their pennies. As the number must necessarily be limited the trip might be used as a reward of merit, something for which to work and to look forward.

The big event of the year is the Annual Field Day. It is the one chance to show the public generally what the playgrounds are doing; for unless you live in the immediate neighborhood of one you are not apt to know much about them. In August, 1908, the Seventh Annual Playground Meet was held at the Front. It brought out a greater crowd of spectators than ever before, due to several causes.

First, to the increasing interest in the playground movement everywhere.

Second, to the improved program offered. In the first instance the playground meet was simply an athletic meet and attracted only those especially interested in athletics, but from year to year other features have been added until the past year, when the number of spectacular events; drills, maypoles and folk dances, equalled the number of purely athletic events.

Third, to the more vigorous advertising. Posters announcing the games were placed in all the street car windows three or four days before the meet. The suggestion of the Playground Association of America with regard to interesting the congregation of the churches throughout the city was adopted and notices read from all the pulpits on the Sunday preceding the meet, extending an invitation to the general public. The following invitation was mailed to each public official:

August 21, 1908.

Dear Sir: You are cordially invited to attend the Buffalo Playground Exhibition and Games, which are to be held

at the "Front," Saturday, August 29th, at 2:30 P. M.

At this time, when the beneficial influence of physical culture and exercise is a matter of fact, a demonstration of the various methods and exercises cannot but be instructive as entertaining. You, as an official of the city of Buffalo, are respectfully requested to attend and witness for yourself the genuine enjoyment the participants derive in addition to the benefit.

Respectfully yours,  
ERNEST WENDE, M.D.,  
Health Commissioner.  
HARRY A. ALLISON,  
General Director Playgrounds.  
AUGUST SCHNEIDER,  
Secretary.

Also to all prominent churches.

Throughout the winter only a few of the playground employees are retained; the general director, two directresses on half time, two caretakers on full time and three on half time, to protect the property on the closed grounds, to shovel the walks and to throw open the gates on pleasant days.

The work is greatly hampered by the lack of gymnasium and club rooms, the shelter houses being too small to provide anything of the kind. The boys and girls are just as much interested in playground affairs as in the summer time, but there is no place to meet except on the pleasantest days when the playgrounds are used to some extent. There is a dearth in Buffalo of buildings adaptable for recreation purposes. The city will eventually have to build such places; the young people need them now; recreation centers such as Chicago has provided, probably on a more modest scale, but almost anything would be welcome.

There are five settlement houses scattered throughout the east side of the city which in some measure fill this

## —BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS

want for their neighborhoods, but there is room for many more, the west side has nothing of the kind and it should not be left for charity. The New Grace Universalist Church of Buffalo, situated at the corner of Hoyt and Lafayette streets, in the midst of a fine residence section, thrown open during the past summer, is equipped with a gymnasium. This is made use of twice a week by the basket-ball girls of the Lafayette High School, and Annex by the boys' team of the Lafayette Annex, whose physical education should by right be provided for by the city under the School Department. It is also used one evening a week by a social club of fifty young women, one afternoon by a gymnastic class of forty little girls, twice a month by a men's club, once a month by a musical club, twice a week by arts and crafts classes, once a week by a sewing class, twice a month by a dramatic club and once a week by each of six different boys' athletic clubs; all this aside from the social life of the church members themselves. When it is added that all these clubs and classes sprang into life as soon as there was a home for them it would seem that there is sufficient demand for a public recreation center in that neighborhood to influence the city to satisfy that demand even to the extent of allowing the people to use their own school building should that prove the only solution of the problem.

The directors put in some time each week at the few schools which throw open their assembly rooms after school hours to the boys and girls. Folk dancing, basket-ball, gymnastic drills and games are taught. Much evening work is done in the way of officiating at games, it being a somewhat difficult matter for the young people to find competent officials who will volunteer their services. One day each week is reserved for skating, when the director accompanies a crowd to one of the

public parks where provision is made for winter sports.

Last winter a girls' basket-ball team was organized, composed of High School graduates and college girls. This team played under the playground name, having as its object the breaking down of social prejudice against the playgrounds and the inculcating of the idea that the playground movement is a part of the general system of public education and quite as respectable as any other branch. The team was successful in interesting a great number of the High School pupils in the work that playgrounds are doing.

While each playground has been provided with a shower bath since the beginning it is only for the past two summers that the girls have made use of them. There has been such a decided improvement in the appearance of the girls on some of the playgrounds in that time as to justify some expenditures for increasing the bathing facilities. In some communities there has been a desperate struggle between the safety pin and the button. With a little more encouragement it looks as though the button might win out.

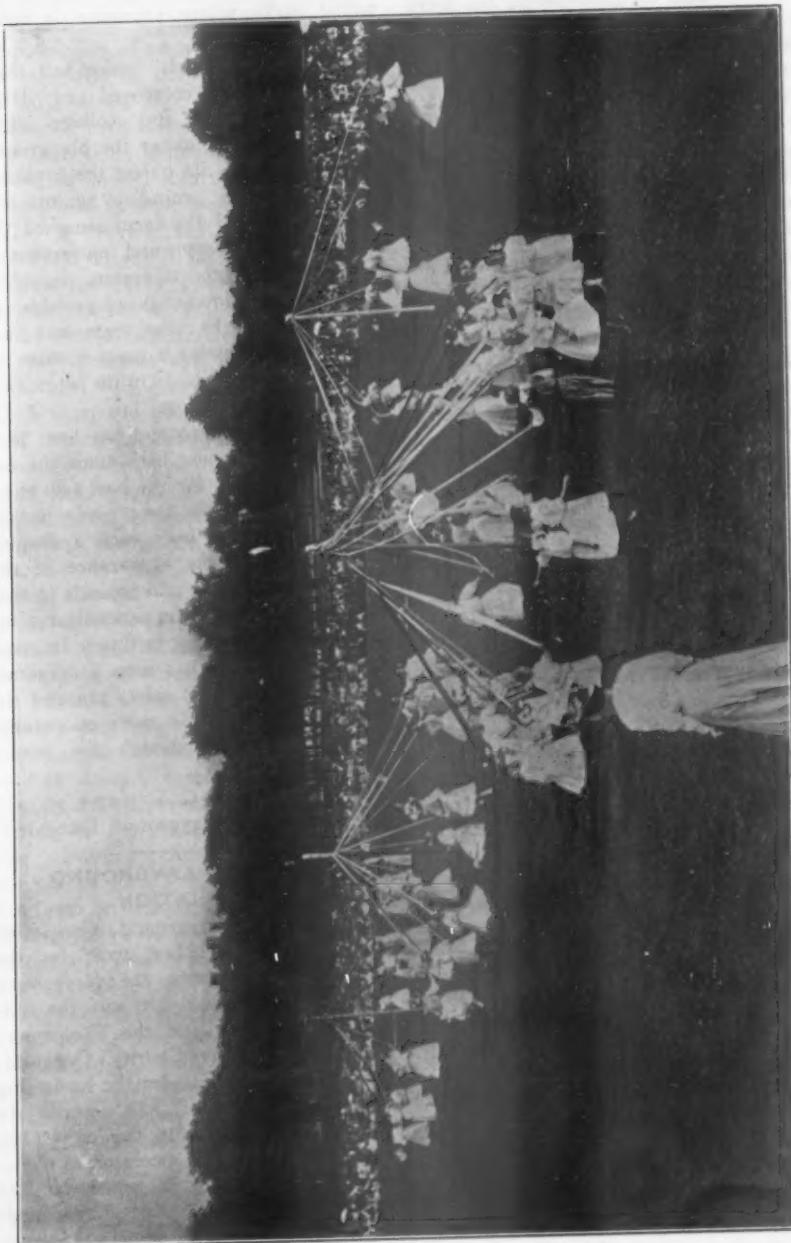
MAY C. SICKMON,  
Playground Director.

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### BUFFALO PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION.

The Buffalo Playground Association was organized in May, 1908, for the purpose of furthering the playground interests of the city. It was the outcome of the work of the Playground Committee of the Charity Organization Society, which under the leadership of Melvin P. Porter, had secured six public playgrounds for the city. Mr. Richmond Moot, his successor as chairman of the committee, urged the formation of an independent Playgrounds Association, which in May was organized.

BUFFALO PLAYGROUNDS—



MAYPOLE DANCE AT LAST ANNUAL FIELD DAY, BUFFALO, N. Y.

## —PUBLICITY

The personnel of the Board of Directors of the Association was most fortunate. The president is the County Judge, Harry L. Taylor, who was lead to his interest in public playgrounds by his experience on the bench. The directors include the Superintendent of Education, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Health Department, the Judge of the Juvenile Court, the Director of the Playgrounds, and other representative citizens, both men and women, all of whom are interested but not merely to lend their names but to give their thought and service to the promotion of the cause.

The Association began its work by a careful study made through committees of the school population, of congestion, of juvenile delinquency and of truancy, and finally after such careful study agreed to recommend five new playgrounds to be secured if possible during the present year. Through another committee, available sites were sought, preferably for leasing, as it was thought that leasing would form an easy entering wedge; but it soon developed that the plots desired would have to be bought. It then became necessary to secure by bond issue the money necessary for the purpose.

The co-operation of city officials proved easy to secure. The Commissioner, Dr. Ernest Wende, and especially the Deputy and Acting Commissioner, Dr. F. E. Fronzak, of the Health Department, under whose direction the playgrounds are now conducted, are heartily and intelligently and actively in favor of an aggressive playground program, and have been themselves leaders in the Playground Association and in making and forwarding its plans. The Mayor and the Common Council have also thus far been easily interested, the Mayor having recommended more playgrounds in his annual message. The Act enabling the issue of bonds

for \$100,000 for the purchase of playgrounds is already on its successful way through the State Legislature, and meanwhile in Buffalo the Association is laying plans for the use of this money to buy, not the sites cheapest or the sites most desirable politically, but the sites where the facilities for play are most scanty, and where the crowding needs of the city children are most urgent.

Another recommendation which the Playground Association is prepared to urge, when the time finally does come, when Buffalo will be able to get a new charter, favors the putting of the playground management in charge of a volunteer commission of three, to be named by the Mayor, instead of leaving it as now under the care of the Health Department. This recommendation also is made with the hearty approval of the Health Department.

Thus far all has been plain sailing and the Association believes that it will be able to put through its present program and then with the growth of intelligent interest, on the part of the Buffalo public, to enlarge its program and still put it through.

ROY SMITH WALLACE,  
Secretary.

### PUBLICITY III.

BY LUTHER HALSEY GULICK,  
*President Playground Association of  
America.*

#### PARENTS' DAY.

ONE of the main reasons for having exhibitions, playground ceremonies, public demonstrations, etc., is to spread the playground idea in the community. It is not enough to do good work. It is necessary, for the permanency of the work, that people shall know about it. Of the various forms of display one of the most useful is Parents' Day.

## MAKING A MEETING EFFECTIVE—

Printed invitations should be given to the children for their parents. A special program should be prepared. This should include the systematic carrying on of the regular activities, plus some special form to give the occasion an artistic setting—such as saluting the flag, singing some patriotic song, some dance or exercise in which all participate, and in which perhaps some little color scheme is used, as for instance, a uniform ribbon in the hair or on the sleeve.

Good accounts of these parents' meetings should be furnished to the newspapers, together with photographs.

Special efforts should be made to have two or three prominent city officials present to see what is being done. If possible, they should speak, or in some way identify themselves with the movement. The fact of the presence and participation of these city officials should be displayed prominently in the daily papers. It pleases the person taking part, as well as the audience, and gives a true impression to the public as to the attitude of the city officials toward this movement. It is to be remembered that the fathers of the children are voters and that in the long run the permanency of this work must depend upon the intelligent support of all people. There are no people that can be relied upon—so far as enthusiastic and intelligent support is concerned—as can the parents whose children are playing upon the playgrounds.

Parents' Day serves other needs than that of publicity. It serves to bring the various elements in the community together. It serves to unify the social feeling. It serves to bring teachers and parents into personal relations. It serves to bring to parents a knowledge of what children are doing on the playground. It serves to increase the health and the respect of children for the playgrounds,

because of the presence of their parents. It helps to make the playground that which it is rapidly becoming to be—one of the most effective social centers of the community.

### MAKING A MEETING EFFECTIVE.

**T**HE following suggestions are the result of accumulated experience.

It is not proposed that all of them should be followed in every case. Few meetings, however, are successful without such advance and "follow up" work as is here suggested.

1. Have a carefully prepared "form" letter multigraphed on the personal paper of one of the most influential friends of the playground movement. These letters should be signed personally and addressed individually to two or three hundred of the leading people of the community. The letter should tell of the purpose and importance of the meeting, and should ask each person to be present.

2. Get letters written to the papers from prominent people, calling attention to the importance of the movement and the importance of being present at the meeting.

3. Send important literature of the playground movement to the chief people of the city. This will be furnished by the Playground Association at cost price. Give these names and addresses to the Playground Association that they may receive more literature later.

4. Have four or five illustrated articles in the local papers showing what other cities are doing, particularly cities of the same size. The Playground Association of America can furnish cuts, or at least photographs and information for this purpose.

5. Have copies, or at least abstracts, of what is to be said carefully prepared and in the hands of the editors of the daily papers at least fully twenty-four

## -AN APPEAL

hours before the meeting. Mark these to be released for use on the morning after the address. This is of the utmost importance.

6. See that there is full discussion of the speaker in the newspapers—what he has done, his writings, etc.

7. In order that the speaker may be able to make his addresses more useful, furnish him in advance with all the information about local matters that are obtainable and show him the work being done or contemplated.

8. Give a reception to the speaker in the afternoon. This should be by the leading women's club or some leading woman of the city, and should be done in a way to demand the attendance of the society people. A short address by the speaker of the evening should be given at this reception.

9. If possible, arrange to have the speaker meet the Board of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce, the Commercial Club, or whatever other body corresponds to this set of interests in the city. If this is not feasible, have a supper for the men following the evening address. At this meeting the leading men in the community should be present. Everything should be done in a thoroughly businesslike and dignified way.

10. See to it that a few of the leading men and women of the community are seated on the platform, and that this is noticed in the papers beforehand and afterwards.

11. At the evening meeting, have brief opening addresses made by the Superintendent of Schools, a leading physician, a Protestant and a Catholic clergyman, a Park Commissioner. Have the meeting presided over by the Mayor, or some one equally prominent.

12. Secure a message from the Governor of the State, or some other prominent person, to be printed in the papers, read at the meeting, and printed with report.

13. Have a supper for the men following the evening address. At this meeting the leading men in the community should be present. Everything should be done in a thoroughly businesslike and dignified way.

14. When it is possible for the speaker to remain over, secure a meeting of the physicians of the city, called by the leading medical society, on the following morning. At this meeting a paper or an address will be given by the speaker of the evening.

15. It may be desirable to have a meeting with the ministers on the noon preceding the meeting in the evening.

16. The most important occasion is a meeting at the close of school of the teachers and principals of the schools. They must be called by the Superintendent of Schools.

17. Conferences with committees actually doing the work for the discussion of practical details are most helpful.

### AN APPEAL.

The Playground Association of America is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. This year \$20,000 must be secured to meet the current expenses and \$3,000 to cover the expenses of the Annual Playground Congress, to be held May 11-14, in Pittsburgh. Letters have been sent by the Financial Secretary to the members of the Board of Directors and to the Council members of the Association, asking their co-operation in securing the required \$23,000 (nearly \$2,000 a month).

The work of the past two and a half years has resulted in an increase of over 100 per cent. in the number of cities having playgrounds. Previous to 1908, 90 of the 907 cities in the United States with a population of 5,000 or over had playgrounds; during the summer of 1908, 187 cities had playgrounds and about 125 others are considering their establishment for 1909.

## THE COMING CONGRESS AT PITTSBURGH—

The intensifying of the work already done, increasing the efficiency of playgrounds throughout the country, co-operating with cities where the movement has been started in developing an adequate playground system, co-operating with cities having no playgrounds in getting the work started—this is the work of the Playground Association of America for this year.

With the rapid development of the playground movement throughout the country the expenses of the National Association have multiplied rapidly until the budget for the present year calls for the securing of ten times the amount that was secured during the first year of the work.

The Board of Directors and Council members, who are directing the work of the National Association, are located in all parts of the country and with their co-operation it should be possible to build up for this Association, the work of which is not limited to any locality, but covers the entire country, a supporting constituency which shall be representative of the entire country. Suggestions as to possible members for the Association will be gratefully appreciated.

GRACE E. J. PARKER,  
Financial Secretary.

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### THE COMING CONGRESS AT PITTSBURGH.

MAY 11-14.

THE Third Annual Playground Congress will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on May 11th to 14th. Already the Local Committee of Arrangements, the Programme Committee and the Committees on Special Subjects are busy at work preparing an unusually strong programme and an extensive series of novel exhibits and festivals for Congress week.

In Pittsburgh a local Committee of

Arrangements headed by Miss Beulah Kennard, President of the Pittsburgh Playground Association, with Mrs. Samuel A. Ammon, Treasurer, and George E. Johnson, Superintendent of the Playground Association, as co-workers, is perfecting plans for the entertainment of visitors. This Committee has appointed the following sub-committees: Hospitality, Mrs. Frank T. Hogg, Chairman; Concert and Finance, Mrs. Frank M. Roessing, Chairman; Local Transportation, Mrs. George Kramer, Chairman; General Information, Mrs. Ammon, Chairman; Hall and Ushers, Mrs. William Macrum, Chairman; Auxiliary and Playground Exhibits, Mrs. Joseph H. Moore, Chairman. Each of these chairmen is assisted by a number of prominent residents of Pittsburgh.

A large Advisory Committee composed of Pittsburgh's leading men will be announced later.

Carnegie Music Hall, one of the most beautiful and convenient places for gatherings in the United States, has been secured for the use of the Congress.

The exhibition features will be particularly emphasized. Winter work and activities will be shown as of interest in the present movement for the all-year use of playgrounds. Another exhibition will deal with dramatics, folk dancing and games, while the value of music in playground work will be developed at a musical festival in which playground children will sing Italian, Russian, German, Irish and Negro folk songs. Folk dancing also will be a special feature of the festival work.

The Pittsburgh Congress, moreover, will offer an unexcelled opportunity to study at first hand the way in which a municipality and a private organization can co-operate successfully. For the City of Pittsburgh has placed the management of its playgrounds in the hands of the Playground Association.

## PARENTS' MEETING AND INDOOR MEET

The general meetings will be held in the evening. The present plan is to have fewer addresses and to place greater emphasis on exhibition features. The speakers will be men and women recognized nationally as having an important message to offer on the play question and significant data to contribute to the working out of the great educational, physiological and civic problems, the solution of which is believed to lie in the field of properly conducted playgrounds. The topics at the general meetings will be limited to fields which have a truly national application.

Each address will deal authoritatively with some phase of a question which has a national bearing and which is significant to all classes of playground advocates. The detailed discussion of questions applicable to limited fields will be held in connection with the special conferences and committee sessions.

The reports of the special committees and the conference discussions will be, each in its own field, comprehensive. These committees for months past have been thoroughly canvassing their fields for all information. Each report will be a complete resumé of playground progress and discovery in all parts of the country. The chairmen of these committees report that all of their members are actively considering the problems. In addition each Committee has had the benefit of the suggestions in its field made by the entire membership of the Playground Association of America.

The several committees and the chairmen who will present reports at the Congress are:

Athletics for Boys, Dr. A. K. Aldinger.  
Equipment, E. B. De Groot.  
Festivals, Lillian D. Wald.  
Folk Dancing, Elizabeth Burchenal.  
Normal Course in Play, Prof. Clark W. Hetherington.  
Play in Institutions, Dr. Hastings Hart.

Playgrounds as Social Centers, Mrs. Vladimir Simkhovich.

State Laws, Joseph Lee.

Playground Statistics, Leonard P. Ayres.

Storytelling, Maud Summers.

All suggestions made by the Committees and by individual members will be considered by the Programme Committee consisting of Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, George E. Johnson, and Lawrence Veiller. This Committee will then report a plan giving to each feature the maximum possible consideration and allowing a due proportion of time to the people of Pittsburgh to carry out their hospitable intentions.

(From *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Saturday, Feb. 20, 1909.)

### TEN THOUSAND PERSONS IN THIRTEENTH REGIMENT ARMORY.

#### Parents' Meeting and Indoor Meet of Public School Athletic League District No. 1.

#### RESERVES WERE CALLED OUT.

THE Thirteenth Regiment Armory on Sumner Avenue is the largest in the State. It has galleries on all sides, and at one end there are two galleries. But last night every seat was occupied, hundreds of people were standing, and boys climbed onto the roof girders. The officials and police said there were 10,000 men and women, boys and girls present. No one doubted the estimate. The occasion which brought together so immense a crowd, in a storm which would have feasted the ordinary citizen, was the Parents' Meeting and Indoor Meet of Athletic District No. 1, which comprises local school districts 32 and 34, of which Seth T. Stewart is district superintendent.

## PARENTS' MEETING AND INDOOR MEET—

ent, and it includes Public Schools Nos. 25, 26, 35, 55, 56, 70, 73, 85, 87, 106, 113, 129, 137, 148, 151 and 155, in which there are nearly 30,000 children. From these schools there were 600 girl dancers and 667 boy athletes.

The armory was lavishly decorated with the flags of all nations, but the Stars and Stripes were, of course, most in evidence. The boys and girls from the different schools were assigned places in the galleries, and flung out their flags and banners. And didn't they cheer and shout, and didn't their cowbells jingle, and didn't their horns toot! There was a din of course. There can't be anything else when thousands of boys are out for a good time. Superintendent Stewart and his committee had undertaken a big contract, but it carried out as well and with as much order as could be expected. City Superintendent Maxwell, Associate Superintendent Meleney, Reinhardt H. Pforr, president of the league, and other were present.

The instructors of dances had the girls under their charge, and Miss Ruth C. Granger was their chairman. They all did well, and they were ready for their part in the programme soon after 8 o'clock, when the Commercial High School Band, under the direction of Edward J. A. Zeiner, played a march. The six hundred girls, as they marched to their places on the floor, were cheered. They presented a beautiful picture. When they were lined up, Mrs. Esther A. Liscombe, one of the teachers of music, who stood on the band stand with a baton, lead in "America." It was splendid.

The programme provided for three sets of dances, each one by two hundred pupils. The first was the Frykdals polka (Swedish peasant dance) and the Highland schottische, by the pupils from Public Schools Nos. 25, 55, 56, 87, 113, 129, 151. The girls were not in

costume, but all were in white. Some wore red, others blue and others white hair ribbons, according to the school. After they had gone through the Swedish dance, they produced from somewhere tartan scarfs, which they threw over their shoulders, and were transformed into Scotch lassies.

When they had tripped off, another set of girls came on, and danced the "Hop, Mor Annika," which, in Swedish, means, "Hop, Mother Annika." It is danced in Germany, Denmark and all Scandinavian countries. The girls were from Public Schools Nos. 26, 106, 137, 148 and 155. After that they put on a green cap, and then, as Irish colleens, performed a lilt. They enjoyed it as much as did the spectators.

Next came the girls from Public Schools Nos. 35, 70, 73 and 85, who gave an exhibition of the ox dance. It originated in a Swedish university over a hundred years ago, and presents the hazing of the freshmen, who were called oxen. The various movements indicate the salutation, bragging, stamping on toes, jostling, boxing, etc., and at the close they "make friends." It was well done. Then all the six hundred girls danced the Norwegian mountain march, which showed how the guides lead strangers through the difficult passes of the mountains.

As soon as the dancing was completed the boys who were to compete in the games emerged from the administration building, headed by others carrying half a dozen national flags and school banners. Each school had a banner at the head of its champions. Was there a racket? Well! It was an Olympian parade. Then all the boys and girls formed in the center of the floor and sang "Uncrowned Kings;" they also saluted the flag, and everybody joined with them in "Star Spangled Banner," as Old Glory was hauled down

(Continued on page 20.)

## —ROCHESTER PLAYGROUND GAMES

### GAMES, SPORTS AND PASTIMES AT THE FRONT STREET PLAY-GROUND, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

The playground is open daily, summer and winter; in the summer from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., in the winter from 3.30 to 8.30 P. M., and Saturdays from 10 A. M. to 8.30 P. M.; area only 5,000 square feet, or that of a city lot.

The average daily attendance since the establishment has been 125.

Advancing Statues.	Leap Frog.
A Little Boy is Passing By.	Medicine Ball.
Building with Blocks.	New York Footsteps.
Black and White.	Oats, Peas and Beans.
Beast, Bird or Fish.	Oranges and Lemons.
Beetle Goes Round.	Poor Pussy.
Blue Bird.	Pom Pom Pull Away.
Blind Man's Buff.	Prisoner's Base.
Ball (soft).	"Piggy Back" Race.
Beetle on the Fly.	Punching Bag.
Bull in the Ring.	Playing Horse.
Basket Ball Relay Races.	Painting.
Baby in the Hole.	Parallel Bars.
Crocinole.	Playing School.
Cross Tag.	Paper Folding.
Crossing the Brook.	Pussy Wants a Corner.
Chuck-a-luck.	Quoits.
Catch.	Round the Mulberry Bush.
Cleaning House.	Right and Left.
Cat and Mouse.	Reading.
Climbing Pole.	Rachael, Where Art Thou?
Center Stride Ball.	Ruth and Jacob.
Cutting Out Pictures.	Rope Climbing Contest.
Cleaning Yard.	Running Relay Races.
Caroms.	Story Telling.
Dancing.	Simon Says.
Dodge Ball.	Singing.
Dashes.	Study of Pictures.
Drop the Handkerchief.	Saddle the Donkey.
Do You Fear the Black Man?	Salute to Flag.
Football.	Spelling Bee.
Farmer in the Dell.	Scrimmage Ball.
Follow Me to London.	Swinging on Rings.
Forfeits.	Still Pond.
Flag Relay.	Sewing.
Folk Dancing.	Swinging.
German Clap Dance.	Sliding.
Gardening.	Stump the Leader.
Herr Slap Jack.	Shooting Baskets.
How do you do, my Partner?	Teacher.
Hopping Race.	Tag.
Hand Polo.	Three Legged Race.
Handkerchief Relay Race.	Tisket-a-Tasket.
Hand Ball.	Two Deep.
Hockey.	Three Deep.
In and Out the Window.	Spin the Plate.
Jump the Shot.	Stage Coach.
Jumping Rope.	Slide Game.
Jumping.	Scrap Book Work.
Jacks and Ball.	Touch Ball.
Knots and Splices.	Volley Ball.
Kicking.	Wheelbarrow Race.
Lazy Mary.	Yale Lock Tag.
Lily White Flower.	

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

(Continued from page 18.)  
from the roof of the armory. The girls tripped off singing "Boolah," which was played by the band. It was not on the programme, but every child knew it. Then the games followed.

The news items about playgrounds show on the part of critics a misconception as to supervised play. This should be dissipated as soon as possible by the friends of the playground movement. Play that is simply directed play is not play at all, it is a calisthenic exercise. Play that is not free to choose its time and subject is not play. There must be absolute freedom in choice of plays, but once chosen there should be complete compliance with the rules of the game. Whatever the sport may be it must make for fair play.

Some of the friends of the play movement as shown by news items even in THE PLAYGROUND have made grievous blunders in permitting activities that should have no standing anywhere; thus the chancing of coins with a view to raising funds may not be deprecated too severely. The playground should make for honest, earnest, self-reliant character, and should have nothing to do with encouraging mere games of chance. The co-operation, as in the past, of all friends of this national movement in the interest of children is earnestly sought for the ensuing year.

### CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS ON PLAYGROUNDS.

In the junior department of the *Boston Herald* the essay contest for young readers was on the subject of "Playgrounds." One of the two winners was Evelyn Merriam, aged 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Merriam, of 5 Mechanic Court, Fitchburg, Mass. Her essay was as follows:

"I wonder how many cities have playgrounds. My own city has not had

one until lately. It is the gift of a generous citizen. It is just started now on a level piece of ground, with a slope with trees on it on one side, where probably there will be swings and seats. There are so many children who would not have a place to play but for the playgrounds. There they have a chance to run and race, which makes them grow strong and healthy. Besides, not all parents can afford swings and seesaws, sandheaps and all the other playthings so dear to children. Then there is the fresh air and the green grass, where one is not forbidden to run and gather all the flowers one wishes. There the mothers can bring their babies on a hot day of summer, while they rest and watch the happy, laughing children. Sometimes they bring their luncheon and spread it on the grass, and when the hungry children come running to them, each one of them eats it with a fine appetite after their fresh air morning.

"In winter, too, there is skating and coasting and other sports to play instead of trying to skate or slide in a dirty backyard of a tenement house.

"Oh, yes, surely playgrounds are a fine thing for a great city."

EVALYN MERRIAM,  
Fitchburg.

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

BY LEE F. HANMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

The High School boys of Tacoma, Wash., have raised by solicitation \$20,000 for a stadium. The business men of the city have also taken an interest and raised about \$40,000 more. The stadium will be built in a natural amphitheater near the High School building and will be used for all athletic games and festivals by the public schools of the city. Present plans call for an expenditure of about \$85,000. A grammar school athletic league was organized in 1905.

## —PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

Cambridge, Mass., has made special provision for coasting on some of its streets. Policemen are stationed on the hill of the junction of cross streets, and so regulate traffic as to avoid accidents.

The Board of School Trustees of Vancouver, B. C., has appointed a committee to report on a plan for establishing public playgrounds.

Hartford, Conn., is planning to so amend its city charter as to permit the establishment of a juvenile commission as a regular city department, this commission endeavoring to correlate the public schools, public playgrounds, children's courts, etc. The following resolution passed the Board of Councilmen:

1. That there shall be in the city of Hartford a commission of juvenile affairs, which shall consist of the Mayor, the Superintendent of Schools, a member of the Board of School Visitors, a member of the Board of Park Commissioners, a member of the Board of Charity Commissioners, a member of the Board of Health Commissioners, a judge of the Police Court and three citizens who hold no other public office.

2. The necessary expenses of said commission shall be paid by the city, but no member thereof shall be paid for his services as such member.

3. Each Board of Commissioners represented shall in the month of April select its own representative on such commission, and in April, 1909, the Mayor shall appoint three citizen members, one for a term of one year, one for a term of two years and one for a term of three years, from and after May 1 next following, and the Mayor shall appoint one citizen in the month of April of each year thereafter for a term of three years from the first of May next following.

4. All questions relating to juveniles

and minors shall be referred to said commission by the Board of Common Council for its consideration and report before final action is taken on such question.

5. Said commission shall have power to investigate and inquire into all questions relating to the welfare of the children of the city, to collect and compile statistics or other information relating to child life within the city, and to recommend legislation in the interest of children. Said commission shall make an annual report to the Common Council, containing a summary of its investigations and their recommendations.

The Mayor of Hoboken, N. J., has appointed a Playground Commission. The following are its members: Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Mr. Julius Lichtenstein and Mr. A. J. Demarest.

A park and playground bond issue, amounting to \$1,000,000, has been authorized for Seattle, Wash. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of this amount is to be used for playgrounds.

The City Council of Winnipeg, Man., has asked the Legislature for authority to appoint a Playground Commission.

An amendment to the Ohio School Law passed at the 1908 Legislature makes it permissible for Boards of Education to maintain playground vacation schools and school gardens.

The normal course for playground teachers that is being conducted by the Playground Association of Baltimore, Md., has an enrollment of 194; 166 white, and 28 colored. The last month of the course will overlap with the opening of the playgrounds, thus making possible practical work in playground administration. Formerly the

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

Baltimore playgrounds have been open only during July and August. This year they will open on May 1, and four of them will continue until November.

The Chicago Playground Association is carrying on some interesting work in getting large groups to go for walking trips in the country. A leader is appointed to take charge of the party which goes by train to one of the suburbs, and from there walk for three or four miles in the open country.

The following general directions are sent to those joining the parties:

"When taking the train in Chicago do not buy tickets. The leaders of the party will be at the gate leading to the train and will give you a numbered coupon, half of which is to be surrendered to the train conductor. On the train or during a halt in the course of the walk the leaders will collect from each one in the party the amount indicated in this bulletin, which includes the cost of a round-trip ticket at commutation rates, plus a small fee to cover the cost of printing and postage. A coupon good for the return trip will then be given you. Please provide yourself with exact change before starting.

"Persons joining the party at an intermediate station will be given coupons after they have boarded the train.

"Permission has been secured to lead these parties on cross-country tramps through woods and fields. This courtesy on the part of the property owners should be met with equal courtesy by the trampers.

"In large parties especial care should be exercised to avoid doing damage to fences and cultivated fields. Flowers should not be gathered, nor limbs of trees or shrubs broken. Gates should be closed by the last member of the party.

"Anyone who may have good photo-

graphs taken on any of the walks will please communicate with the secretaries."

The following bills are before the Legislature of the State of Washington:

An Act relating to the filing and approval of plats of additions to certain cities:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. No plat of an addition of a city of the first or second-class or other cities having a special charter, with sufficient population to authorize it to incorporate under the general incorporation laws as a city of the first or second-class, shall be filed, accepted or approved unless a plot or plots of ground not less than one-tenth of the area of the blocks therein platted, exclusive of the lands set apart for streets and alleys, be dedicated to the public for use as a park or common or for parks or commons and placed under the control of the city authorities for such use forever.

Passed by the House February 21, 1907.

J. A. FALCONER,  
Speaker of House.

Passed by the Senate March 1, 1907.

CHARLES E. COON,  
President of the Senate.

Vetoed by the Governor (question of constitutionality).

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Hereafter no school building shall be erected by any school district, or board of directors, or by the authority of the vote of the inhabitants of any school district in this State, unless there shall at the same time be acquired adjoining or in immediate connection therewith playground containing an area of not less than sixty square feet for each one of the estimated number of pupils for whose permanent use

## —PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

said building shall be built, and as much larger area as may in the judgment of the board of directors be practicable to obtain for use in connection therewith.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of school directors to comply with the requirements of this law, and any school director, who by recorded vote, fails or refuses to comply therewith with respect to such minimum area shall be liable to removal from office as such director, and after such removal shall be disqualified for holding any office under the educational laws of this State.

SECTION 3. All Acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The Charity Organization Society of Atlanta, Ga., has been conducting a public playground for the last few years. A movement was started recently to raise a fund of \$1,000 for the purchase and equipment of a new ground. The city has been making a small appropriation for this work.

Mayor Koenig, of Auburn, N. Y., in his recent message to the City Council, says: "The acquirement of more grounds is recommended for the purpose of playgrounds."

The *Chicago News* reports that Mrs. Anita McCormick Blaine has purchased at a cost of \$38,610 a tract of land for a playground for the Francis W. Parker School.

The Park Board of Cincinnati, Ohio, is equipping Bathgate Park with an athletic field, shelter house and baths at an expense of \$34,000.

Mr. J. L. Johnson, supervisor of the Bomberger Park Playground in Dayton, Ohio, reports that the cost for the last six months of 1908 was two cents per day per child. This center has an ath-

letic field for boys, playground for girls, swimming and wading pools, and a field house with gymnasium, club rooms and baths.

The Real Estate Committee of the School Board of Detroit, Mich., has reported in favor of six new playgrounds next year with a total expense for equipment and maintenance of \$37,015.

The following resolution was adopted at a recent meeting of the Montana State Teachers' Association: "*Resolved*, That we give our hearty endorsement through the movements throughout the country to provide suitable playgrounds for the children of our towns and cities, believing as we do that healthful play, under proper environments, tends to the health of the body, to the prevention of vice and crime, and to the development of a clean, wholesome character; that we may urge upon the proper authorities in the towns and cities of our State the importance of securing ample playgrounds, while lands for the same can be procured at reasonable prices."

Mayor Steil, of Hoboken, N. J., in an address to the newly appointed Playground Commission, said: "I would like to see you get to work as rapidly as possible because I think that Hoboken children are greatly in need of playgrounds. The closely built-up sections and scarcity of open grounds make the problem you have to overcome a difficult one."

Councilman Charles A. Marlin, of Nashville, Tenn., has introduced a resolution in the City Council providing for the enlargement of the park area of the city by the addition of small parks and playgrounds for children. The resolution provides that the Council shall appoint a committee of five to secure the additional sites.

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

A committee of the Political Equality Club of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has conferred with the Board of Aldermen concerning the establishment of a public playground in that city next summer.

Northampton, Mass., was one of the two cities out of twenty-five in the State that voted by a small majority against the establishment of public playgrounds. The *Northampton Herald* has the following to say: "It was undoubtedly through a misunderstanding of the subject that caused an adverse vote at the last city election on the acceptance of the State Playground Act, to establish one playground, but we hope the city will voluntarily establish one or more after the very large endorsement given this question at the election."

Samuel W. Packard recently donated to the Third Congregational Church of Oak Park, Ill., a piece of property which the church will develop as a semi-public playground with tennis courts and a gymnasium.

The Park and Playground Department of Syracuse, N. Y., has in the 1909 budget an appropriation of \$5,000 for developing the public playground in Lincoln Park.

The *Philadelphia Ledger* reports that sixty new playgrounds will be opened during the coming summer by the Board of Education Committee on Special Schools.

Mayor Adam, of Buffalo, N. Y., has directed his Corporation Counsel to draw a bill authorizing a bond issue of \$100,000 for the purchase of playgrounds.

Mayor Forward of San Diego, Cal., is chairman of a committee to investigate the question of sites and equipment for public playgrounds.

The Principals' Association of Seattle, Wash., recently sent the following resolution to the Legislature: "*Resolved*, That it is the unanimous sense of the Principals' Association of Seattle that the Washington Playground Bill, passed in 1907, and vetoed by the Governor, which comes up for consideration before the Legislature on January 21, become law."

A resolution was introduced at the January meeting of the Board of Education of Reading, Pa., calling for an appropriation of \$1,000 for the purchase, equipment and maintenance of school playgrounds during the coming summer.

### FORM OF BEQUEST.

*I give and bequeath unto the PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA the sum of ..... dollars, to be applied to the uses and purposes of the Association, and the receipt of the President and Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors for the same.*

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3. Girls' Division of the Bird Avenue Playground (noon-hour).

nd.